Golden Quadrilateral Project

*52. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister Of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rs. 34,300 crores Golden Quadrilateral (GO.) Project linking the four metros and other major cities across thirteen States is likely to be delayed by a year;

(b) if so, the details of progress of work that has been done, so far; and

(c) the amount of money spent so far and by when the pending work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The approved cost of the Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) Project is Rs. 25,055 crores (at 1999 prices). A sum of Rs. 20,115 crores has been spent up to 31st January 2005. The Project is likely to be substantially completed by December 2005. The status of the Project as on 31st January 2005 is as under:

Total Length	5846 kms
Completed	4480 kms
Under implementation :	1366 kms

Rates of minimum wages

*†53. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are different rates of wages for different types of work in the country;

(b) if so, the rate of minimum wages during 2003-04 in the country indicating the areas and nature of work for which the minimum wages are paid;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that there is wide-gap in rates of wages being paid on the country; and

(d) if so, the rates of maximum wages in country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYEMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) A statement indicating the rates of minimum wages during 2003-04 among different Scheduled employments for unskilled workers in Central and State Spheres, as notified by the appropriate governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, is given in the Annexure [see Appendix 2004, Annexure No.1]

(c) Yes, Sir. Disparity in rates of minimum wages in various regions of the country is due to differences in socio-economic and agro-climatic conditions, prices of essential commodities, prevailing wage rates, availability of labour force, paying capacity, productivity and other local conditions.

(d) A statement giving information about the maximum level of the minimum wages is enclosed.

Statement

Maximum level of minimum wages among scheduled employments in Central and State spheres during 2003-04

S No.	State/Union Territory Administration	Name of the Scheduled Employment	Maximum level of minimum wages per day (in Rupees)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	Central Sphere	Agriculture	101.32
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Distilleries and Breweries	96.38
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Agriculture, dairy farming	42.11
4.	Assam Bihar	poultry, bee keeping etc.	63.00
5.		Carpentry and Masonry Aluminium Industry	64.62

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
6.	Chhattisgarh	Agarbati Industry	79.13
7.	Goa	Agriculture	94.00
8.	Gujarat	Loading & Unloading in Docks and Ports	99.20
9.	Haryana	Agriculture	85.53
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Single Rate	65.00
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	-do-	45.00
12.	Jharkhand	Aluminium Industry	64.73
13.	Karnataka	Textile (Silk) Industry	91.50
14.	Kerala	Minor Ports	151.47
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Agarbati Industry	82.58
16.	Maharashtra	Straw Board & Paper Board	161.58
17.	Manipur	Employment in Agriculture	66.00
18.	Meghalaya	Single Rate	50.00
19.	Mizoram	Agriculture Worker	84.00
20.	Nagaland	Single Rate	50.00
21.	Orissa	-do-	52.50
22.	Punjab	-do-	82.65
23.	Rajasthan	Glass and Cinaware Industries	70.65
24.	Tamil Nadu	Neera Tapping	125.20
25.	Tripura	Construction or maintenance of Roads or Building Operations	53.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Straw Board & Paper Board	110.27
27.	Uttaranchal	Straw Board and Paper Board Manufactory	106.31
28.	West Bengal	Public Motor Transport	203.86
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	Agriculture	124.42
30	Chandigarh	Single Rate	100.00
31.	Dadra & Nagar Havel	Poultry Unit Poultry Food manufacturing unit, Fertiliser manufacturing unit or any other Agro Based unit.	60.00

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
32.	Daman & Diu	Employment in automobile repairing workshops and garages	60.00
33.	Delhi	Single Rate	110.10
34.	Lakshadweep	-do-	52.00
35.	Pondicherry	Agriculture	100.00

Note:- Minimum Wages Act has been extended *w.e.f.* 1.10.2004 in Sikkim.

Postponement of SAARC Summit

*54. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons behind postponment of recent SAARC Summit in Bangladesh;

(b) whether India's position in the postponement of Summit was at variance with other Member countries, including the host country;

(c) if so, what has been India's reaction to the position of other member countries;

(d) whether Government have any strategy to utilize SAARC forum to strengthen democracy and bring about regional peace and prosperity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) India formally communicated to the Government of Bangladesh that it would not be able to attend the SAARC Summit in Dhaka on the scheduled dates of 6-7 February, 2005. This decision was taken against the background of recent developments in our neighbourhood, which had caused us grave concern, as well as the deterioration in the security situation in Dhaka following the fatal attack on the former Finance Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. S.A.M.S. Kibria. In our assessment, it is only in an environment free from political turmoil and violence that a Summit would yield the desired outcome.

(b) Yes, Sir.